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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/806,775	07/09/2001	Markku Rajala	0386/00294	5959

7590 05/01/2008
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EXAMINER

HOFFMANN, JOHN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1791

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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05/01/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/806,775

Applicant(s)

RAJALA ET AL.

Examiner

John Hoffmann

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3/18/2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 37-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 37-52 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 37-52 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The MPEP sets forth what must be considered to establish whether the enablement requirement is met.

2164.01(a) Undue Experimentation Factors

There are many factors to be considered when determining whether there is sufficient evidence to support a determination that a disclosure does not satisfy the enablement requirement and whether any necessary experimentation is "undue." These factors include, but are not limited to:

- (A) The breadth of the claims;
- (B) The nature of the invention;
- (C) The state of the prior art;
- (D) The level of one of ordinary skill;
- (E) The level of predictability in the art;
- (F) The amount of direction provided by the inventor;
- (G) The existence of working examples; and
- (H) The quantity of experimentation needed to make or use the invention based on the content of the disclosure.

Examiner has considered all these factors. Factors A-E do NOT support a determination that the disclosure does not satisfy the enablement requirement.

Factor F supports the determination that the disclosure does not satisfy the enablement rejection. As per page 5, lines 5-12 applicant admits that what happens "unclear, but it can be assumed" that the tetrachloride reacts to by forming oxide particles, and the rare earth liquid reacts to form oxides, and that these formed particles combine with each other to form homogenous glass particles. Examiner takes this to be an admission Applicant made no actual determination that there were first oxide particles and second oxide particles which later combine - as required by each of the independent claims. As a practical matter: it would seem that if applicant was unable to determine whether two different particles were made, then a potential competitor would be unable to determine whether a particular process would infringe on the claim. Could a someone practice substantially a similar process and avoid infringement by just "assuming" that two particles were not made – just like applicant assumed they were made? No guidance is given as to how make two different particles.

Factor G supports the determination that the disclosure does not satisfy the enablement rejection: there were no working examples. At best the disclosure discloses how to spray material. There is nothing which suggests it actually is "working" to create the two particles which combine as claimed.

Factor H supports the determination that the disclosure does not satisfy the enablement rejection. It is deemed that the amount of experimentation is extreme. If applicant could not perform experiments to determine if two particles are made, then it is deemed that it would also create a huge burden for an artisan to create the two particles.

To summarize: Whereas the disclosure does enable one to make multicomponent glass particles and spray them to a target, it does not enable one to make two glass particles which combine to make glass particles, because applicant is unclear as to whether that is what happens.

Claims 37-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

There is no support for the limitation of introducing a second glass component through a liquid tube separate from the gas tube through the nozzle (claims 37 and 42).

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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Claims 37-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

There is no antecedent basis for “the gas tube through the nozzle” , and it is unclear what is meant by “separate” (claim 37, lines 9-10; claim 42, lines 11-12).

The plain reading of the claim is that the gas tube goes through the nozzle. However, if it is applicant's position that “through the nozzle” is suppose to describe what is happens second glass component, then the claim is unclear if it should be interpreted as "and through the nozzle" or "or through the nozzle". Applicant is reminded that the Office is required to use the broadest reasonable interpretation, and an inferred “or” would yield a broader interpretation than an inferred “and”.

From the drawing the tubes are all connected together – they are not separate. Thus it is unclear what is meant by the tubes be “separate”.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 37-52 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Although there is no prior art rejection, this should not be taken as an indication of allowable subject matter - absent a showing that the claimed invention is enabled. The prior art processes does not reasonably disclose making the two particles and

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combining them as claimed. Examiner apologizes for not realizing earlier that a non-enablement rejection would be appropriate.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Hoffmann whose telephone number is (571) 272 1191. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:00- 3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steve Griffin can be reached on 571-272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

John Hoffmann
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1791

jmh

/John Hoffmann/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1791